

Office of Congressman Charles W. Dent
Proudly Representing Pennsylvania's 15th District



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Congressman Dent's statement on judge's upholding
Jefferson search
"Congressional offices are not above the law"

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent made the following statement concerning U.S. District Court Chief Judge Thomas Hogan's ruling to uphold a May 20, 2006 search of Rep. William Jefferson's office as part of an ongoing public corruption investigation:

"The ruling by Chief Judge Hogan states that law enforcement had legal justification for the search of Mr. Jefferson's office and that it was conducted properly. I agree with the Judge's ruling that 'a member of Congress is generally bound to the operation of the criminal laws as are ordinary persons,' as I have said since this incident occurred. I firmly believe in the Constitutional separation of powers. And I firmly believe that Chief Judge Hogan got it exactly right when he said that a search warrant of Mr. Jefferson's was appropriate because we do not want to turn every congressional office 'into a taxpayer-subsidized sanctuary for crime.' "

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